MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha I*): May I know from the member whether the Departmental Heads have brought to the notice of Government the existence of persons qualified by their success in the Departmental Examination when they pressed for the appointment of persons without such qualifications?

MR. T. C THOMMEN (*Secretary to Govcrnment*): Yes.

Trees in the Reserve Forests.

65. *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether the Government are aware that there are plenty of windfallen and uprooted trees inside the Reserve Forests;

(*b*) whether the Conservator of Forests has made any arrangements to remove and sell the said trees in order to fetch revenue;

(*c*) whether the Conservator of Forests has taken any list of the above trees from the various Reserves in the State;

(*d*) if the answer to (*c*) is in the affirmative, whether the list would be placed on the table; and

(*e*) if the answer to (*c*) is in the negative, what would be the approximate loss to the State in this direction?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Not many.

(*b*) If for any reason, trees are brought down by wind in large numbers, special arrangements are made for their disposal. Usually the number is not large enough for disposal and they are included in the contract for the collection and delivery of timber at the Depots.

(*c*) Such wind-fallen and uprooted trees are included in the enumeration lists when trees are marked for extraction according to the provisions in the Working Plans.

(*d*) *Vide* answer to part (*c*).

(*e*) There is no loss to the State for the reasons stated above.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): In answer to part (*c*) of the question, may I know from the Government the number of trees that were windfallen or uprooted in the Reserves since 1109?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secreatry to Governnent*): They are not separately counted.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member that in the face of the answers that were given just now for supplementary questions answer to question No. (*a*) is wrong?

MR. T. C THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): If there are very large number of trees windfallen or uprooted then information is available in the Department.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know from the member how the number of windfallen and uprooted trees is ascertained as small or large without taking any list?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The number need not be known. But general information is available. When the number of trees to be cut down is listed down, we know more or less how many of them are windfallen or uprooted and how many are not.

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MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Under what basis the number of trees windfallen or uprooted is known by the Department ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : They are included in the numeration list according to the provisions in the working plans.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know from Government whether any special staff is engaged for taking the accounts of those trees ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*) : Every year the number of trees to be worked down is marked down by the Department officers in each particular area.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : May I know whether the Government are aware that thousands and thousands of trees that were uprooted and windfallen are left neglected inside the Reserves for many years ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The Government are not aware.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know from the member whether Government have made any attempt to point out the average working out of timber in our forests as it is done in British India ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): The Government have not worked out.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) : May I know whether the Government are aware that there is a system obtaining in British India by which 23 c. ft. has been worked out as an average per acre ?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Government are not aware.

MR. M. SIVATANU PILLAI (*Tovala*) Am I to understand that Government are not aware of anything done in British India in this particular case.....

PRESIDENT : The member has already told you that there were a certain number of trees which had come to the notice of Government as windfallen and uprooted. He has already answered that question.

Forest Revenue.

66 ❋ MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they are aware that there are plenty of outer-slabs and top-ends of trees available inside the Forest Reserves useful for fuel as a result of the removal of timber by forest and other Government contractors ;

(*b*) if the answer to part (*a*) is in the affirmative, how many cart loads of fuel under the above category are available for sale every year from each Reserve ; and

(*c*) what revenue the Forest Department has derived under this head so far ?

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MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No account has been kept.

(*c*) The cost of working them as fuel from the interior forests is so prohibitive that no one will care to collect them even if allowed at seigniorage rate or even less.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): In regard to answers to question (*a*) and (*b*) may I know from the member why accounts are not kept of outer slabs and top ends of trees available inside the Forest Reserves useful for fuel?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Government do not consider it worthwhile to keep accounts.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether the Government are aware that the trees are in great demand for fuel in the important towns of the State?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Government are aware that there is a large demand for fuel in the towns.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know from Government whether it would not be a saving for the Government if these trees are transported by the Department itself or through Government contract as fuel?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Government do not consider it feasible.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know whether it is not a loss for the Government to neglect these outer slabs and top ends?

PRESIDENT: He has already admitted that it is a loss.

MR. K. P. KRISHNA MENON (*Parur*): May I know whether the Government have tried to dispose these trees by calling tenders?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): Government did not consider it worthwhile to do so.

MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): May I know whether Government have tried to sell off these trees?

MR. T. C. THOMMEN (*Secretary to Government*): It does not appear that there is any special reason to make the trial.

Stationary Magistrate, Nedumangad.

67 *MR. S. J. NAIR (*Nedumangad*): Will the Government be pleased to state:

(*a*) whether they are aware that there are only third class powers for the Stationary Magistrate at Nedumangad;

(*b*) whether they are aware that there is no other Magistrate in the taluk excepting the Magistrate with the third class powers; and

(*c*) whether they are aware that due to the absence of second class powers, even cases involving motor offences are not tried in Nedumangad Magistrate's Court?

RAO SAHIB DR. N. KUNJAN PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*):

(*a*) The Stationary Magistrate, Nedumangad, has since been invested with second class powers.

(*b*) and (*c*) In view of the answer to part (*a*) these do not arise.

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